

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
October 22, 2014
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro
Robert A. Cantone
David Chang
Terry Cosgrove
Nabi Fakhroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Rozanne Ronen
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir
Diane M. Viverito
David J. Walsh

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

In Carbondale

Brad Cole (via telephone)

ABSENT:

Merri Dee

Staff

N. Keith Chambers
Dr. Ewa Ewa
Michael Evans

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Reva Bauch
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine M. Welninski
Byron Wardlaw

Members of Public: Ranjit Hakim, *Executive Director Cook County Department of Human Rights*
Muharrem Erdem

NOTICE:

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On October 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Dee gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray, that she would not be present for the meeting.
- 3) Prior to the meeting Commissioner Cole gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that he would not be physically present for the meeting and requested to participate via telephone.
- 4) Motion to allow Commissioner Cole to participate via telephone made by Commissioner Cosgrove and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0
- 5) Commissioner Gash arrived after the roll call at 10:20 a.m.

II. Consideration of Minutes

September 24, 2014

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2014 as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the September 24, 2014 minutes as submitted by staff made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 11-0.

III. Chairman's Report

Martin R. Castro, Chairman

Chairman Castro introduced two visitors, Ranjit Hakim Executive Director Cook County Commission on Human Rights and Muharrem Erdem, Parliamentary Aide for the Government of Turkey, who shared information about themselves and the work of their respective organizations.

IV. Staff Reports

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers reported that the Human Rights Commission Problem analysis is complete. The data of the analysis will be tied to next year's budget. Mr. Chambers informed the Commission that he would provide a full report at the November *en banc* meeting. Mr. Chambers reported that the Commission will have two options, with one option more expensive than the other. The data will be used for the supplemental budget request and next year's budget cycle.

B. *Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer*

Dr. Ewa reported that he is trying to control expenditures considering the reduction in the Commission's budget the present fiscal year. Dr. Ewa further reported that the purchase of new computers will be held off until January 2015, because the Commission does not have sufficient funds for union fees. Dr. Ewa further reported that presently there are no problems for the day-to-day operations of the Commission.

C. *Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge*

Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans gave the report for the month of September 2014. Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans reported that there was a slight increase in filings but no significant change in the number of filings.

D. *Donyelle Gray, General Counsel*

Ms. Gray reported that Assistant General Counsel Byron Wardlaw and Assistant General Counsel Evelio Mora will be attending the Midwest Public Interest Law Career Conference on February 7, 2015.

Ms. Gray reported that next month the Commission will begin testing the Share Point platform. Share Point will allow a quicker and more cost-effective method for distributing meeting materials to the Commissioners.

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Ms. Gray reported that Assistant General Counsel Evelio Mora has drafted updated Administrative Rules for the Commission. Ms. Gray is reviewing the draft and will submit them for Commission approval as soon as she has completed her review.

Ms. Gray distributed employment law updates.

Finally, Ms. Gray reported that the Office of the General Counsel, which processes Request for Review matters, received nearly 400 Request for Review new filings the prior calendar year, and that she anticipates receiving a similar amount of new Request for Review filings by the end of this calendar year.

V. New Business

None

VI. Old Business

Chairman Castro gave an update on the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment event. Chairman Castro reported that he will reach out to Director Steven Spielberg to invite him to the event. Chairman Castro further reported that the target month for the event will be either in January 2015 or February 2015.

VII. Public Comment

None.

VIII. Executive Session

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel